First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

Art by the incredible artist - HeQi

http://www.heqiart.com/

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

January 11, 2015 10:00 am

Baptism of the Lord

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude — Steve McGhee

*Gathering Hymn — "Sing a Different Song" — 150 NCH

Welcome — Donna Eyster

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

**Please rise in body or spirit as you are able*

Announcements — Donna Eyster

Ringing the Bell

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Focusing Prayer (Unison) — Donna Eyster

In the beginning, O God, you fashioned a universe. Each star and planet had its beginning in you. Out of the void, you brought light and life. Through eons of creativity, you have acted , and today we are here, inheritors of an amazing process, tiny specks in the limitless reaches of time and space. And you are here, waiting to greet us. As you acted in our baptism, you are acting still to make all things new within us and among us. Let your light awaken us and your Spirit empower us for faithful living. Amen.

SOLO — "Arise My Love and Come Away" — Tiffanie Waldron

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament Reading — Genesis 1:1-5 — Donna Eyster

Hymn — "Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child" — 136 NCH

Children's Time — *children are invited to come forward* — Rev. Herman Haller

New Testament Reading — John 15:1-11 — Donna Eyster

Reflection — "Reliable But Not Predictable" — Rev. Herman Haller

*Hymn — "Hark The Herald Angels Sing" — 160 NCH

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People — Rev. Herman Haller

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time. Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Traditional — Rev. Herman Haller

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

Our Father and Mother
Who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kin-dom come.
Thy will be done
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Hymn "What Child Is This?" 148 NCH

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison) Donna Eyster

In thanksgiving for all we have received, we enlist in the ministry Christ demonstrated and inspired. We have nothing apart from God's gifts. We have everything when we allow God's Spirit to work through us. This offering demonstrates the depth of our awareness. Amen.

Offertory Steve McGhee

*Doxology "Take My Gifts" 562 NCH

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

*Prayer of Dedication *(Unison)* Donna Eyster

Mighty God, you have given us everything we have. You have granted us life. You have poured out abiding love on our behalf. You have made us rich. We share out of this awareness and because we care about people who do not know you, people who have not shared your abundance, people who have defied your commandments, people who need your love. Bless our gifts to do the work you intend. Amen.

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

*Hymn of Departure "Go Tell It On The Mountain" 154 NCH

*Benediction Rev. Herman Haller

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: ***www.ypsiucc.com***

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Our Volunteers	Today: January 11th	Next Sunday: Jan. 18th
Usher	Wayne & Lyle Molter	Marty Kleino
Preaching	Herman Haller	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Donna Eyster	Ivan Harner
Worship Set-up	Donna Eyster	Anne Marie N-T
Acolyte	Kelsie Molter & Desayre Penn	Hunter Turner
Friendship Time	Barb Garland	Melanie Harner
Sunday School	Patty Sherwood	Tad Wysor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dream of Justice: Walt Kemnitz will be bringing the Dream of Justice team from COGS to FCC UCC Ypsilanti on Sunday, January 18th to provide their informational presentation on justice issues and incarceration following our service @1130am or so.

CHURCH COUNCIL: The church council meeting was postponed until tomorrow January 12th at 6:00 pm.

CHOIR REHEARSALS: Choir rehearsal this week will be Tuesday at 6:30 PM Come, join the fun and try it out. We have a great time. Don't need to read music or have trained voice.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-482-5619.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's address': *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and *Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*, or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: For information about what's happening with Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition, or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition). In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.
See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!! Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card *MUST* register. *Last Year's registration expired May 1st* and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "REGISTER". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the Community Rewards site and register with our church. Our number is 83263, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.